

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL  
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

March 31, 2010

In attendance at the March 31, 2010 Finance Committee meeting were Bill Allen, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Bob MacDonald, Joe Gambon, Julie Shaffer, Rachel Gear, Dolores Baronas and Paula Ferguson. Absent were Ian Curran and Caryn Stevens.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman John Ellard.

A motion was made by Rich Penney and seconded by Bill Allen to accept the minutes from the March 10, 2010 meeting. A unanimous vote was taken.

**WIRING DEPARMENT BUDGET:** Jim Paul presented his budget. There are currently two part-time inspectors with one on-call inspector if needed. In 2006, there were 431 permits issued bringing in a total of \$47, 623. In 2007, 488 permits bringing in \$77,122. In 2008, 424 permits bringing in \$41,232 and in 2009 398 permits issued bringing in \$34,462. So far for 2010, there are 86 permits issued bringing in \$4410. These permits go calendar year not fiscal year. Each inspector works 20 hours a week. There will be increased inspections with the new school building but the fees are waived along with the Abington/Rockland Joint Water works whose fees are also waived but will take time to complete those inspections. Their auto allowance is approximately three gallons per day.

Allan Choicca mentioned that revenue projections are approximately \$12,821,282.00 and health insurance will probably have an increase of 10 1/2%.

**TOWN CLERK BUDGET:** Mary Pat Kaszanek presented her budget. The State Elections are on the even years. A question was raised in the fall with why there are 2 people at each end of the polling stations. It's a state law. She is looking for an increase in her budget of \$1076.53 as she did not include a step raise increase. They brought in \$21,250 in passports. She is currently alright with the election budget. The state is paying the town back for the additional special elections. Longevity is \$1600 for two people. Proficiency is being paid in lieu of a raise. The Registrars budget of \$6800 is alright. The census mailings have caused in increase in postage.

**COUNCIL OF AGING:** Peggy Bryan presented her budget. The Council of Aging currently helps people who need any kind of information. Their telephone is paid under sundries. There has been no increase in salary. They put the 2 ½% increase in supplies. If Peggy takes time off, they have an outreach coordinator to fill in. It is currently a two person office. The Van Service is currently 18 hours per week which is paid through the donation account three days a week. They currently have fund raisers and donations from people and organizations. They currently have meals on wheels and organizations also help with the cost. There is a requested donation of \$3.25 per meal. People volunteer their time. 6200 people have used the center since July. Some are repeat users.

**ACCOUNTANT'S BUDGET:** Eric Hart presented his budget but first discussed his transfer request for assessment of the Police and Fire Department computer systems to upgrade and provide unformed e.mail throughout the town with a cost of \$894.00. Paula made a motion to table this request upon hearing from the Police and Fire Departments, seconded by Bob MacDonald. A unanimous vote was

taken.

The Accountant's budget did not have an increase in Mr. Hart's salary but is permanently requesting the increase in his clerk's hours for \$23,739. His total budget has only increased 2% since 2006. The Assistant Accountant does not go to seminars leaving that line item \$2500 under sundries.

Dr. John Rogers showed up to discuss his articles. First was Article 18 which was the Tax Aid Committee which is requesting that people who cannot afford their tax bill may volunteer their time and "work" off their tax bill through working in town departments. There will be an application process and interview with the department heads. Julie Shaffer made a motion to recommend Article 18 and it was seconded by Rich Penney. A unanimous vote was taken.

Article 19 was from the Housing Authority in building a senior complex off of Norman Street. It will house approximately 60-85 units. There are currently 400 people on a waiting list for senior housing. It will also have a senior center, health center, cafeteria, exercise room. It would be paid for with a federal grant. The land was donated by the Tedeschi's. It will have 150 parking spaces. They still need to meet with the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. A motion was made by Bill Allen, seconded by Rachel Gear to table this article until after the meeting with the Conservation and Planning Boards.

Our next meetings were set up for April 7, April 14, April 22, April 28 and May 3 is Town meeting.

A motion was made by Dolores Baronas to adjourn, seconded by Bill Allen. A unanimous vote was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ferguson  
Secretary  
Rockland Finance Committee